

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE  
MUNICIPAL GOLF COMMISSION MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2005**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Municipal Golf Commission was called to order by Chairman Skip Rowland, at 3:30 p.m. in the classroom at the Long Beach Junior Golf Academy Building, 6730 E. Carson Street, Long Beach, California. Chairman Rowland took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	Skip Rowland, Chairman	
	Phil Barlow, Vice-Chairman	Len Kennett
	Robin Bellamy	John McCann
	Gail Berns	Ray McElhenney
	Linda Cook	Bob Peeters
	Tonny Christensen	Becky Turley
	Betty Hatcher	Matt Knabe

<b><u>Staff:</u></b>	Thomas Shippey, Manager of Maintenance Operations
	Terry Lortz, Superintendent of Golf Operations
	Emy Arteaga, Golf Operations Support
	Ryan Ritter, Golf Operations Intern

<b><u>American Golf:</u></b>	Jay Carballo, Regional Director of American Golf
	Jason Koh, General Manager of Skylinks Golf Course
	Lisa Georgeson, Junior Golf Coordinator

<b><u>Audience:</u></b>	Craig Kessler, Public Links Golf Association
	James Gilbert, Public Links Golf Association
	Frank Amador, Public Links Golf Association
	Gary Grommet, Public Links Golf Association
	Jim Gonzales, Public Links Golf Association

**2. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

- Chairman Rowland welcomed and asked all guests to please sign in and introduce themselves.

- Chairman Rowland welcomed and introduced Matt Knabe to the commission and asked Commissioner Knabe to briefly introduce himself to the commission.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 24, 2005**

- The minutes of the August 24, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**It was moved by Commissioner Berns and seconded by Commissioner Turley that the Municipal Golf Commission approves the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **4. GOLF SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Rounds of golf for August were down by 466 (-1.18%) over the total course rounds for August. Total rounds of golf were down by 37,144 (-12.58%) for the year compared to this time last year. **(Skylinks was removed from the comparison because of renovation closure).**
- Mr. Lortz asked the commissioners if they had any questions or comments on the rounds/financial report for the month of August.
- Mr. Lortz reviewed the highlights of the Monthly Facilities Report and asked the commissioners if they had any questions on any of the report.
- Chairman Rowland asked if the CIP bond fund payment would be taken from the CIP account. Mr. Lortz stated that the bond payment is taken out twice a year and the account needs to have a balance to cover one and a half payments. This was part of the bond-funding requirement to qualify for lower interest from the bank.
- Commissioner Christensen asked if any consideration had been given to cutting the green fees at Skylinks Golf Course. Mr. Lortz informed him that golf fees would be addressed as new business on the agenda.
- Mr. Lortz informed the commission that we have sent out 22,000 Cal Olson Tournament notices on AGC's e-mail list, sent out 2,000 flyers to the Chamber list, have information and links on our department website, have an ad running two days in the Grunion and an ad running one day in the Long Beach PT, mailed out about 650 brochures and distributed another 300 at various locations.

- Commissioner Kennett inquired as to the possibility of canceling the tournament. Mr. Lortz stated that there might be a strong possibility that this tournament will need to be cancelled next week. If we don't get a substantial number of calls for entries early next week; we really won't be able to justify tying up the entire course for the day and taking a big financial loss.
- Mr. Lortz asked all commissioners to get a foursome together to try and promote the tournament.
- Commissioner Turley asked why the low turn out? Mr. Lortz stated that undoubtedly it is partially the result of the current trends and of course, many have already given to the Katrina relief efforts through several other local & national fundraisers and may understandably feel tapped out for the rest of this year.
- Commissioner Kennett asked what American Golf would be doing about the starting times? Are you going to start on the first tee or is it going to be a shotgun? Mr. Jason Koh stated it would start on the first tee.
- Commissioner Kennett asked why it had failed? Mr. Shippey stated it hasn't failed yet and a decision will be made next week.
- CIP Golf Fund - Current balance approximately = \$28,199
- CIP Surcharge Total = \$115,451

## **5. AMERICAN GOLF REPORT**

- Junior Golf 1% Fund available balance August 30, 2005 = \$95,049.04
- Little Linksters Fund available balance July 30, 2005 = \$64,980.75
- Recreation Park 18 Golf Course has extensive tree trimming going on and next on the list is Recreation Park 9 Golf Course.
- Recreation Park 18 Golf Course restroom renovations are taking place and the parking lot is being slurry sealed.
- Ms. Lisa Georgeson provided an update on the various junior golf programs in our City.
  - The Long Beach Junior Golf Association currently has 494 registered members.

- The Long Beach Junior Golf Association will play the last round of our club championship on Friday, September 30, 2005 at Heartwell Golf Course. Match play championship will begin the following week.
- Continuing plans with the NAACP and the department for fall and winter golf programs.
- As the school year is beginning, plans are being worked on for the Long Beach Unified School District campuses to host golf clinics in the coming months.

## **6. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS**

### **A. Capital Improvement Projects**

- No committee report.

### **B. Fees and Charges**

- The committee chair would like to schedule a meeting to discuss Internet tee times to develop a procedure for this. (This subject would have to first be assigned to the Policies and Procedures Committee by the chair if deemed necessary).

### **C. Hall of Fame**

- Commissioner Kennett asked for support from the commission on collecting memorabilia for the Hall of Fame. Commissioner Kennett inquired about the press releases for this event. Mr. Lortz stated he would work with our graphics department and put together a press release.

### **D. Policies and Procedures**

- No committee report.

### **E. Tournaments**

- No committee report.

### **F. Junior Golf Advisory**

- No committee report.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- GPS system - golfers are using the system and commenting it has several great features available for golfers to use and have suggested use of GPS at El Dorado Golf Course. Mr. Lortz informed the commission that a proposal from AGC has been put through for the Director to review and possibly approve for a GPS system at El Dorado Golf Course to be implemented by November 1, 2005. We have had a 5% increase in play at Skylinks since the GPS was implemented. Chairman Rowland commented that he feels that it's a great system.
- Commissioner Turley stated that according to the rules of golf during sanctioned tournaments the Southern California Golf Association states it's not legal.
- Mr. Craig Kessler, Executive Director of Public Links Golf Association stated that within the last 48 hours a new decision had been made and starting January 1, 2006 golfers will be able to use GPS and legally play by the rules of golf.
- Mr. Lortz stated that Mr. Phil Hester would feel more comfortable if he could get a general feeling from the commission.
- Chairman Rowland asked for a motion to receive and file.

**It was moved by Commissioner Cook and seconded by Commissioner McElhenney that the Municipal Golf Commission recommends approval of American Golf's proposal for GPS at El Dorado Golf Course. The motion carried unanimously.**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- CPI Fee Increase – Mr. Lortz stated that according to the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment, American Golf has the option of automatic CPI increases each year. American Golf has presented the City with a letter stating they would like to exercise that option. The CPI increase is roughly 4% and will go into effect on Saturday, October 15, 2005. The new fees will be posted two weeks in advance.
- Commissioner Turley asked if it was green fees, cart fees, all fees? Mr. Lortz stated yes, all golf fees.
- Commissioner Cook asked by how much? Mr. Shippey stated it's approximately 4% for all fees.

**9. COMMENTS**

**A. AUDIENCE**

- None

**B. STAFF**

- None

**C. COMMISSIONERS**

- Chairman Rowland welcomed all new committee chairpersons and asked them to work with their committees on reviewing and making revisions for the golf course manual. It's important to work together and come up with policy recommendations.
- Chairman Rowland reminded all commissioners to continue submitting their golf manual suggestions to Mr. Terry Lortz.
- Commissioner Berns asked if the contractor that did Skylinks is responsible for things that break? Mr. Lortz informed the commission that generally the contractor is responsible.
- Commissioner Berns and Bellamy asked about the water pressure to the restrooms is still a problem. Mr. Lortz stated that staff had this repaired earlier but can see this is an ongoing issue. Jason Koh stated that he will take care of the water pressure issue at Skylinks Golf Course.
- Commissioner Christensen asked what is the possibility of getting sand in the bunkers at Heartwell Golf Course? Mr. Carballo stated he would have his staff take care of this.
- Commissioner Turley inquired about the reported lesson income for Recreation Park 9 Golf Course. Mr. Carballo stated that they have been having some junior golf programs for the summer and this has brought the lesson income up.
- Commissioner Peeters thanked American Golf staff for the ball washers and benches at El Dorado Golf Course.
- Commissioner Cook stated that the practice chipping green is high at El Dorado Golf Course. Mr. Carballo will have Eddie Grattini look into and make the necessary changes.

- Commissioner Turley commented the bunkers aren't groomed properly. How often are they suppose to be groomed? Mr. Carballo stated that they are scheduled to be done daily.
- Commissioner Berns stated that the #10 bunker has big roots growing at Skylinks Golf Course. Jason Koh, will have staff remove them.
- Commissioner Turley asked for a count down of the coupon specials. Mr. Carballo is working on this and will provide Mr. Lortz will the information. Commissioner Turley asked if we are going to continue these coupon specials? Mr. Carballo stated yes the goal is to entice the golfers and get them to continue to play and eventually they will return and pay the higher fees.
- Vice-Chairman Barlow inquired as to who is managing these coupon specials? Mr. Carballo stated that the general managers report available tee times and then Golf 949 by Cypress Golf Course manages it.
- Commissioner McCann asked for a clarification on the away tournaments that were approved sometime back maybe in May. Mr. Lortz will look into this and get back to Commissioner McCann.
- Commissioner Peeters asked if El Dorado Golf Course had a restroom-cleaning schedule? Mr. Carballo stated there is no specific time but they are cleaned daily. Commissioner Peeters stated the restrooms are not being cleaned by 9:00 a.m. Mr. Carballo will resolve this problem.
- Commissioner Bellamy stated that Recreation Park 18 was aerated a few days before their tournament. Is there a way that this can be done after or way in advance before any major tournaments? Mr. Carballo stated that the aerating equipment is shared between the courses but the maintenance superintendents should be able to schedule work around major golf tournaments. Commissioner Cook asked if 30 days notice would be sufficient? Mr. Carballo stated it would be sufficient.
- Commissioner Cook asked what the status was on the golf manual rewrites? Mr. Lortz stated that he has met with Mr. Bob Livingstone and they have been going back and forth with the golf manual changes the previous day. A final draft will be presented to the commission for review.
- Commissioner McCann requested an agenda item for the next golf commission meeting. He invited Jim Gonzales with the Public Links Golf Association to give a brief presentation on golf course ratings at the next golf commission meeting on October 26, 2005.

- Chairman Rowland stated this is his last year on the commission as chairman and there are a few goals he would like to accomplish: accounting of Skylinks, accounting of CIP, rewriting the books, differentiate between maintenance and capital improvement projects and lastly the City, American Golf, and the Municipal Golf Commission need to try and work together to achieve the mutual goal of serving the golfing community.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

**October 26, 2005 at 3:30 p.m.  
Heartwell Junior Golf Building  
6730 E. Carson Street  
Long Beach, CA 90808**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emy Arteaga  
Golf Operations Support

c: Municipal Golf Commission  
Reginald I. Harrison, Deputy City Manager  
Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
Thomas A. Shippey, Manager of Maintenance Operations  
Terry L. Lortz, Superintendent of Golf Operations  
Jay Carballo, Regional Director of American Golf Corporation  
Lisa Georgeson, Director of Junior Golf Programs